

# National Tribune.

"TO CARE FOR HIM WHO HAS BORNE THE BATTLE, AND FOR HIS WIDOW AND ORPHANS."

ESTABLISHED 1877.—NEW SERIES.

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 1884.

VOL. IV.—NO. 2.—WHOLE NO. 158.

## WASHINGTON'S PERIL.

Checking Jubal Early's Northern Raid.

## BATTLE OF MONOCACY.

Gallant Stand made by a Greatly Inferior Force.

## LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES.

Alarm of the People of Washington and Baltimore.

A paper prepared by request of Post Standard, No. 3, Grand Army of the Republic, Burlington, Vt., and read to them Friday evening, April 25, 1873, by Gen. E. Davis, Burlington, Vt., late Capt. Co. 1, 10th Vt., First Regt., Third Div., Sixth Army Corps, Army of the Potomac. Revised and corrected since revisiting the battle-ground in Maryland in 1875.

The third annual invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania commenced about the usual time, but with more than the usual success. Gen. Grant's plan for 1864 included active operations in the Shenandoah Valley during the Wilderness campaign; but all plans for this beautiful valley came to naught. In June Gen. Hunter, of the Union army, with 30,000 men, threatened Lynchburg, Va.

Gen. Lee promptly sent to the latter place Ewell's entire corps, Breckinridge's division, and two brigades of Hill's corps, comprising from 20,000 to 25,000 men, under command of Lieut.-Gen. Jubal A. Early.

Before this column fairly reached Lynchburg, Gen. Hunter decided to leave, having had a partial engagement with the enemy June 15, and being defeated. Hunter's army was nearly out of ammunition.

With the usual wisdom heretofore shown in the Shenandoah Valley campaign, he retreated in a westerly direction towards the Ohio, instead of keeping his army between our National Capital and the enemy.

The right wing, under command of Brig.-Gen. E. Tyler, consisted of the following troops: 24th Regiment Potomac Home Brigade, Col. Chas. Gilpin; 11th Md. Col. Landreth; seven companies of the 14th and three companies of the 15th Ohio National Guard, under Col. A. L. Brown; Lieut.-Col. Glendonin, with 250 cavalry (8th Ill.); Capt. E. H. Lieb, with 100 mounted infantry; Capt. Brown, with 100 men of the 1st Regiment Potomac Home Brigade; and Capt. Alexander, with three guns of his battery. Total—less than 2,500 men, extending from the Baltimore pike (right) where the stone bridge crosses the Monocacy River, to the bridge at Monocacy Junction, a distance of two and a half miles. The 11th Md. and all the Ohio troops were 100-day men just enlisted for the emergency. All were inexperienced in war, except the 250 veterans of the 8th Ill. Cav.

The left wing, under Gen. Ricketts, extended from the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, along the east bank of Monocacy River about one mile, with 2,500 veteran troops in 10 small regiments, viz: The First Brigade, commanded by Col. W. S. Trux (14th N. J.) 1,750 men, consisted of the 10th Vt., 14th N. J., 10th N. Y., 15th N. Y., and 5th Pa. The Second Brigade was that commanded by Col. McClellan (13th Pa.), 1,600 men, including the 11th and 12th Ohio, 13th Pa., 9th N. Y., and five companies of the 12th Ohio.

The Second Brigade commander and staff, with the 6th Pa. 6th Md., and five companies of the 12th Ohio did not participate in any part of the battle, having remained at Monocacy Station, eight miles to the rear, although ordered to move forward. The Second Brigade was posted at the right of our division line, right resting upon Gamble's mill-race. The First Brigade was at the left of the Second, and the cavalry at the extreme right and left of the line. This left a gap between the right and left wings of the army, from the railroad bridge to the wooden bridge where the pike crosses the river, of one-quarter mile or more, in a quarter-circle, which Lieut.-Col. Chandler (10th Vt.), as division officer of the day, was ordered to fill. It was detailed, with 75 men of our regiment, to report to Capt. Brown, commander of the 1st Regiment Potomac Home Brigade, and was stationed on the high knoll where the pike crosses the railroad by a bridge.

Dr. Barr, Division Surgeon, Assistant Surgeon J. C. Rutherford, and Chaplain Haynes, of our regiment, were riding up the pike towards Frederick about 8 a. m. to eat breakfast, which they had engaged there the evening before; suddenly they met a squad of cavalry in blue jackets, supposed at first to be Union troops, but the cavalry fired upon our unarmed friends when within 150 yards.

Sharp skirmishing and artillery firing were kept up most of the morning. About 3:30 p. m. the third and last grand charge of the enemy was made upon the whole Third Division line under cover of a heavy fire from the Confederate artillery. A strong skirmish-line, followed by two lines of battle, emerged from the woods before us, where they formed.

The 10th Vt. was withdrawn from the fence near the Thomas house, upon the appearance of the enemy, to a better defensive position along the pike, where it was lower than the land west of it by reason of heavy rains having washed out much earth. This gave us a good position, the fighting at this point was so severe and the shelling so terrific that most of the losses were here.

THE ENEMY CAME UP CALMLY, and the skirmish-line and first line of battle were repulsed after an hour's desperate fighting. The loss was very heavy on both sides, but proportionately much larger with the enemy than with our side, as they were the attacking party and had five times our number of men. The third line (counting the heavy skirmish-line one) now came up, which Gen. Wallace seeing, he at once sent an order to Gen. Ricketts to withdraw his troops by a back road up the river to the Baltimore pike. This was necessary not only to avoid useless slaughter, but because Gen. Ricketts's First Brigade were entirely out, others nearly so. We had no supply or baggage trains. This order to retreat was nearly parallel with the line of battle, unfortunately, with rising ground at the right of the 10th Vt., which exposed them.

THE BATTLE OPENED at 8:30 with a shell from the enemy that mortally wounded two men in the 15th N. Y. So sudden and unexpected was the battle that Mr. C. K. Thomas, upon whose farm we were, with his family, were compelled to seek safety in the cellar of their house, which was within the lines of battle, where they remained from morning till late in the afternoon. At first our regiment carried the other with right hand upon the revolver. Soon the strain moved off at a right angle, greatly to the relief of our friend Barber, as his revolver was not loaded.

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## SAVING THE NATION.

Brave Black Men Who Dared to Strike for Freedom.

## TILLMAN, THE SHIP'S COOK.

Who Recaptured His Vessel from the Rebels.

## CAPT. ROBERT SMALL.

Who Brought The Planter Out of Charleston.

BY "CARLETON."

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XXXVIII.

To the Boys and Girls of the United States:

In this letter I shall write about a man who made himself a hero. A hero is a man of valor who distinguishes himself by his bravery, daring and enterprise in accomplishing great things for himself or his fellow-men. I dare say that very few of the boys and girls of the United States have heard of Wm. Tillman. He was a negro cook on a schooner—the S. J. Waring of New York. The schooner sailed from that port in June, 1861, just after the battle of Bull Run, for South America. The vessel was off the coast of South Carolina when the Confederate privateer Jeff Davis ran alongside, capturing the schooner, taking off all the crew except a German, a Yankee sailor and the cook, and putting a Confederate Captain, Mate and four sailors on board. The Confederate Captain, who was named Captain, told the German that he must mind the wheel. "You are to cook for us, and when we get to Charleston I will have you sold," he said to William.

The schooner was headed towards Charleston and the Jeff Davis steered away for other prizes. Wm. Tillman was a free man—NEVER HAD BEEN A SLAVE; but if the schooner were to reach Charleston he would be sold. Perhaps he never had heard the song written by Rouquette de Lisle—the Marseillaise of France—

"O Liberty! can man resign thee, One leaving left thy glorious flame!"

He felt it, however, and determined to strike a great blow to secure his freedom.

Night comes. The white sails are set and the vessel is gliding towards Charleston. William is lying in his plans. At midnight he steals softly on deck. The German is at the wheel. The Mate has swallowed glasses of grog and is sitting half asleep on the quarter-deck. The Captain has gone to bed, and a sound asleep in the cabin. He goes back, seizes a club, opens the cabin door, swings the club with the strength of a giant, killing the Captain at a single stroke. No cry is heard. He feels the pulse! It ceases to beat, creeps on deck, strikes the Mate a blow, wounding him, but not killing him.

"HELP! HELP!"

The Mate cries, drawing his revolver, but before he can use it another blow comes and he falls dead upon the deck. The four sailors are rushing aft, but are confronted by the negro with the revolver.

Stop, or I'll shoot every one of you. God down and take the iron off that man, or I'll kill you every one," he shouts, following them to the hatch. They release the Yankee sailor.

"Now it is your turn," he says to the four; and in a few minutes all of the Confederate sailors are in irons.

"I am Captain. About ship!" The German and Yankee shift the sails, and the schooner, which a few moments before was gliding towards Charleston, is heading for New York. A storm comes on; more men are needed. The Confederates are released.

If you obey orders you will be kindly treated; if not, you will be shot," are the words of Captain Tillman. Five days more and the schooner, with the Stars and Stripes at the mast-head, sails into New York—Wm. Tillman Captain.

EXCITEMENT IN NEW YORK. Great the wonder. A negro do this! The newspapers told the story. Barnum, the great showman, read it and hastened on board the schooner. He must have the hero to exhibit in his museum. Crowds came to see the hero who devised and executed the plan of recapturing a vessel from the Confederates and who had exhibited a heroism as great as that of William Tell or any other hero of history. He had recaptured the vessel, and was entitled to the prize-money—\$5,000, which Congress voted him.

His heroism set people in the Northern States, who thought of the negro as a weak and cowardly race, to thinking. What white man had done braver thing? What white man had laid a plan more skillfully or executed it more deliberately? Would not the time come when the slaves would strike a blow for freedom?

"To this colored man," said the New York Tribune, "is this Nation indebted for the first vindication of its honor on the sea. It is an achievement which alone is an offset to the defeat of the Union troops at Bull Run."

THE ENCHANTRESS.

The Confederate privateer, after capturing the S. J. Waring, went cruising over the sea, capturing other vessels, among them the Enchantress, which was captured off the shoals of Nantucket. It had left Boston the day before, and was pointing its prow for St. Jago. The cook on the Enchantress was a colored man, who alone was kept on board by the Captain of the Jeff Davis. He, too, was to be sold when the vessel reached Charleston. The Jeff Davis went on her cruise, and the Enchantress, with a Confederate crew on board, set her sails for that port. There was no chance for the one colored man to strike a blow for liberty such as Wm. Tillman had given. He saw no way of escape. In a few days he would be sold into slavery.

The Enchantress was off Cape Hatteras. United States blockading vessels were off Hatteras Inlet. The Captain of the gunboat Albatross saw a vessel steering south, and ran alongside. The sea was calm. There was little wind.

"What ship is that?" shouted Capt. Prentice of the Albatross.

"The Enchantress."

"Where are you from?"

"Boston."

"What business have you?"

"Pay ransom to the owner, and all the bag to the crew."

"Who is the owner?"

"The slave is owner. The slave is owner, and ever was. Pay him."

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